

Silhouettes

Square & Compass Children's Clinic

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"Serving Tucson & Southern Arizona since 1947"



All Things Are Possible for Christian



Christian, a vibrant 10-year-old, lives with his mother, father, younger brother, Iker, and younger sister, Ivanna.

He suffers from a condition known as Neurofibromatosis which is considered a genetic disorder that can cause tumors to form on nerve tissue. His 4-year-old sister Ivanna, also has this condition along with their mother Elena. Neurofibromatosis is considered heredity.

Neurofibromatosis will cause what it termed "Café au lait spots" which Christian has. Other traits may include freckling in the armpits or groin area, facial disfigurement, bone deformities, vision loss, and learning disabilities to name a few. Christian does have some difficulty in school and also has problems with attention and concentration. He also experiences mood swings. Christian is often loud and hyperactive; he is constantly moving even if he is trying to sit still. All of Christians symptoms occur both at school and at home.

Christian attends school, where he makes friends easily. He enjoys school, and loves all of his teachers, playing ball on the school playground; everything except for the homework. After many hours of playing outside, Christian is happy to sit down to a plate of "Mac and Cheese" - his favorite. After homework, playtime, and dinner, Christian can be heard singing in the shower or playing his violin to wind down from school and play.

His grandmother, whom Christian was very close to, passed away approximately two years ago which still causes Christian behavioral issues. His mother, Elena, says Christian and his grandmother were very close.

Christian's sister, Ivanna, was the family's first child to be seen by providers here at the clinic when she was an infant. He has been seen by several specialty providers here at the clinic since 2013. His mother is so thankful for all the assistance the clinic has provided for Christian. Dr. Smith has gone to great lengths to explain in layman's terms all aspects of Neurofibromatosis and the symptoms involved to Elena. All of the doctors have been extremely helpful including Dr. Jennen and the therapists involved with Christian's treatment and care.

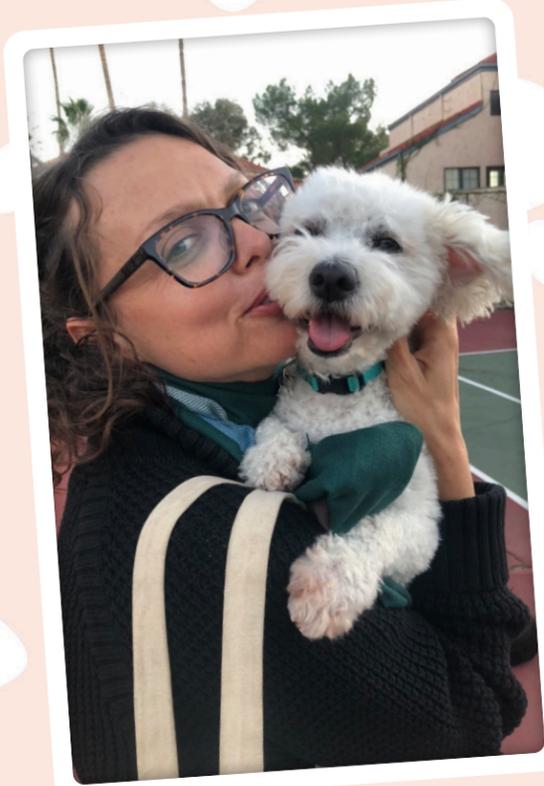
With the help of generous donors, Christian receives the treatment and services he needs. They include MRI's as needed, Ophthalmology appointments and required eyewear, Primary Care services, Neurology, Psychological counseling and assistance with all needed medications.

Christian will receive these necessary services, here at the clinic, until he is 21 years old and it's only with the support from generous donors, like you, that we can continue to help Christian and other kids, like him, receive the care and treatments they need.

Christian has expressed to his mother that when he "grows up" he would like to be either a baseball player or a policeman. Why not! All things are possible for Christian.



Caitlyn and Toby, Passing on the “Red Nose”



Caitlyn Conlin, who is a ray of sunshine, is the Childhood Experiences Supervisor here at the clinic. Toby, her seven-and-a-half-year-old mini poodle mix, is her constant companion and presence here at the clinic. Both Caitlyn and Toby were trained in Tucson at Complete Canine.

Caitlyn, a Los Angeles transplant, moved to Tucson in 2020 and came to work at the clinic in October of 2021.

Caitlyn’s rather eclectic background in Los Angeles includes; serving as a teacher and practitioner of “Medical Clowning” for both kids and adults at several Los Angeles area hospitals.

Caitlyn had not had a dog of her own until Toby, she only had family dogs growing up. Toby came to Caitlyn as a rescue in January of 2021. And from what Caitlyn learned from the rescue organization, Toby was surrendered by his previous owner and was an outside dog only. It certainly did not take Toby long to come to the realization that inside is the place to be! Nice bed, fluffy blankets, lots of toys (especially tennis balls), three square meals every day, and treats.

While training at Complete Canine, one of the instructors stated, “Toby has Pet Therapy written all over him”. Toby was certified with Alliance of Therapy Dogs in September of the same year. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Caitlyn has never met a stranger and you can often find her and Toby in the lobby or hallways of the clinic, always on the lookout for new friends to make. Toby “prances”, sporting one of his many jaunty bow ties, or bandanas, anxious for someone to scratch his ears or back so he can look deeply into their eyes with gratitude and kindness. You could say Toby is also “employed” at the clinic as he puts a smile on everyone’s face and is very helpful in spreading the word to families and children about the many programs Childhood Experience’s offers to the clinic’s patients, including soccer and cheerleading. How could anyone say no to those very expressive eyes.

Clowns, known for their distinct red nose put a smile on almost everyone’s face. Caitlyn has passed on her clown “red nose”. Toby is now Caitlyn’s “red nose” helping her to open pathways for conversation, kindness and, of course, friendship.



Behavioral Health was first introduced at the clinic in 2015, the same year Geri Archuleta, LCSW, joined the clinic as Manager of Patient Family Services. With a background in social work Geri has 40+ years of experience in the Behavioral Health field.

As of this writing, the Behavioral Health Clinic has on staff, three licensed clinical social workers, one psychiatrist, two board certified behavioral analysts, and one licensed medical social worker. As the need arises, for expertise from skilled staff, the hope of the clinic and Behavioral Health is to expand by this Summer. The Behavioral Health clinic, also has had the opportunity to mentor several interns from Arizona State University Department of Behavioral Science.

Geri and her associates are more than willing to help families seeking Behavioral Health assistance, at the clinic,



for their child. Families can expect expert outpatient care. The skilled staff of the Behavioral Health clinic will conduct an intake assessment, discuss upcoming medical procedures, help explore and understand ways for the family to cope with a new or existing diagnoses, address grief and loss issues, set up individual and family therapy as needed, assist with parenting skills, and also refer to a Neurological psychiatrist if necessary, while providing unique healthcare needs tailored for families of Southern Arizona with limited or no health insurance.

On her time away from the clinic, Geri enjoys spending time with her husband of 40 years and her family, especially playing with her 13-month old grandson, along with taking family trips, and eating out.

Geri also serves on the clinic’s Patient Experience Council and the Family Advisory Board which meets six times per year. Both of these boards are extremely beneficial in assisting Behavioral Health with patient and family experiences here at the clinic.

THANK YOU!

As supporters of Square & Compass Children's Clinic **you** play a significant role in improving the health and lives of **thousands** of children.

In 2022, there were almost **37,000** patient visits in the following clinics:

Audiology	Occupational Therapy
Baclophen Pump	Ophthalmology
Behavioral Health	Optometry
Cardiology	Oral-Maxillary
Cerebral Palsy	Orthodontia
Dental	Orthopedics
Dermatology	Osteogenesis Imperfecta
Developmental Pediatrics	Pediatric Palliative Care
Down Syndrome	Pediatric Surgery
Endocrinology	Pediatrics
Ear, Nose, & Throat	Physical Therapy
Feeding	Plastic Surgery
Gastroenterology	Primary Care
Genetics	Rheumatology
Metabolic	Sickle Cell
Myelomeningocele (Child & Teen)	Sleep Disorders
Nephrology	Spasticity
Neuro-surgery	Speech Therapy
Neuro-epilepsy	Spinal Cord
Neurocutaneous	Upper Extremity
Neurology	Urology
Neuromuscular	Wheelchair
Nutrition	

In addition, we support Children's Clinics' ancillary services for patients and their families:

Child Life Specialist	Patient & Family Services
Educational Support	
On-site Radiology & Lab	Pet Therapy
	RN Coordinators

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are sincerely grateful to - YOU - our loyal donors for making it possible for us to serve children like Christian. It's only with your help that Square & Compass is able to continue to provide medical equipment, services, and supplies to patients and families who find it hard to meet some of the expenses related to treating children with complex medical conditions.

You can help lessen the financial burden on families, that face complicated medical issues everyday, by making a tax-deductible donation to the Square & Compass Children's Clinic today. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us continue our mission. You are welcome to make a donation through our website. We are a Qualifying Tax Credit Organization. Our QCO code is 20476. Another way to help, your legacy and ours endure, is by making a bequest to Square & Compass Children's Clinic in your will. We greatly appreciate your support and so do the kids we help everyday.

Your generous contributions ensure that the vision, first realized more than 75 years ago, to help and serve children with complex medical conditions in Southern Arizona, will be lasting and impactful to the kids who need our help on a daily basis. Along with our patients and families, we greatly appreciate your support.

With Gratitude,

Amy Burke
Executive Director

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